

*Alaska Dist*

OCT 16 1924

Report on Investigation of Spawning Grounds, Bear and Sandy Lakes,  
Alaska Peninsula, Port Moller District, Season 1924.

Early in August, 1924 a survey of the Sockeye Salmon Spawning grounds was made at Bear and Sandy Lakes on the Alaska Peninsula in the vicinity of Port Moller. All of the tributaries were examined and the spawning grounds along the shores of the lakes were closely inspected. The accompanying map, while not intended to be considered absolutely correct from a geological standpoint, is given merely for the purpose of illustration and is accurate enough to be used as a guide to any future expedition which may be made. The following report of the investigation contains estimates as to the number of fish in the lakes and streams and are intended to be rather conservative.

The writer, accompanied by two native packers, departed from Port Moller Cannery August 6th. The party was transported as far as Bear River Village, which is situated at the mouth of Bear River, on the Pacific American Fisheries Steamer "Modoc." From that point on all travel was made either on foot or in a twenty-eight foot bidarka, which was rented for the purpose of transporting the outfit and supplies to Bear Lake. The trip from Bear River Village to Bear Lake was made on foot and the boat was lined up the river. A base camp was established at the lower end of Bear Lake and from there both Bear and Sandy lakes and all tributaries were explored. The boat proved to be of great value in covering Bear Lake and on the return trip down Bear River. The trip from Bear Lake to Sandy Lake was made on foot, the distance between the lakes being approximately twenty miles and requiring about nine hours time. The return trip was made over the same route after the streams were inspected, three days being required to make the round trip. After returning to Bear River Village in the Bidarka via Bear River the party walked along the Beach to Port Moller, a distance of about twelve miles, arriving there August 13th. just in time to meet the Pacific American Fisheries Steamer "Catherine D", which was the last boat of the season to leave that point. Perfect weather conditions were encountered throughout the trip until the last day and the winds tides and the condition of the streams were favorable making it possible to make unusually good time in traveling. Ordinarily this trip would require from ten to fifteen days.

**Bear Lake.**

Bear Lake is approximately eight miles long and averages about three miles in width. It lies Northwest and Southeast and is about ten miles from the mouth of Bear River, but on account of having to follow the river it requires about eight hours to make the trip on foot. There are good spawning grounds at the lower end of the lake extending on both sides of the outlet to each side of the lake, where there were a great many Sockeye Salmon spawning. Several hundred Sockeye Salmon were also observed spawning in Bear River below the outlet of the lake. There are also good spawning grounds at the head of the lake extending practically all the way across the lake and down the South shore for a distance of over two miles. These grounds were well covered with Sockeyes and large numbers were lying outside the two creek mouths at the head of the lake. The lake was apparently well filled with Salmon but was not considered to be overstocked. It is estimated that not less than 300,000 Sockeye Salmon entered the lake this season.

## Creek No. 1.

Creek No. 1. empties into upper Bear River about one mile above the Lake on the lefthand side. It is about twenty feet wide at the mouth averaging six inches in depth and diminishing in size very gradually. It is approximately four miles in length and is the only stream that runs thru the valley at the head of the lake in which the water is not muddy. This creek has a gravel bottom and is not very swift at any point. The first three miles of this creek are ideal spawning grounds and were well covered with Sockeye Salmon. It was quite evident that the season was just starting, as there were but very few dead fish to be seen and out of a number of fish examined only about fifty percent were dead ripe. The fish were still entering the creek and it is thot that this creek will be filled to the headwaters with as many fish as it can possibly accomodate. It is estimated that there were about 75,000 Sockeye salmon in this creek at the time of inspection.

## Creek No. 2.

Creek No. 2, a trifle smaller in size than Creek No. 1, empties into Bear Lake on the south shore about one and onehalf miles from the head of the lake. This creek is swift and full of boulders and, while not considered as good a spawning ground as Creek No. 1, there were approximately 20,000 Sockeye Salmon in the creek and more coming in. It is not known just how long this creek is, but the salmon ascend it for a distance of about two miles.

## Sandy Lake.

Sandy Lake is located approximately twenty miles Northeast of Bear Lake. It is rectangular in shape and is about six miles long and three miles wide. The lake is very shallow, the Northern half of the lake is filled with sand bars and the water in the Northern half and lower end of hte lake is very muddy. The South shore of the lake is unsuitable for spawning grounds with the exception of a short distance at the Southeast corner of the lake where about two hundred Sockeye Salmon were spawning. There were but very few fish in the lake and practically none in the streams above. Thirteen hours were spent in examining the streams above the lake and during that time only eleven Sockeyes were observed. There is only one good clear stream emptying into Sandy Lake, which is marked Creek No. 3. on the map. accompanying this report. It is about two miles long and furnishes good spawning grounds, but it contained no fish at the time of inspection.

According to all reports from the natives and others who are acquainted with this district, there never has been a good run of Sockeye Salmon in Sandy Lake and it is not considered by the writer to be a very favorable or important spawning ground for the Sockeye Salmon.

All streams and lakes visited were observed to be full of Dolly Varden Trout of all sizes, and but very few young Sockeye Salmon were observed in any of the lakes or streams.

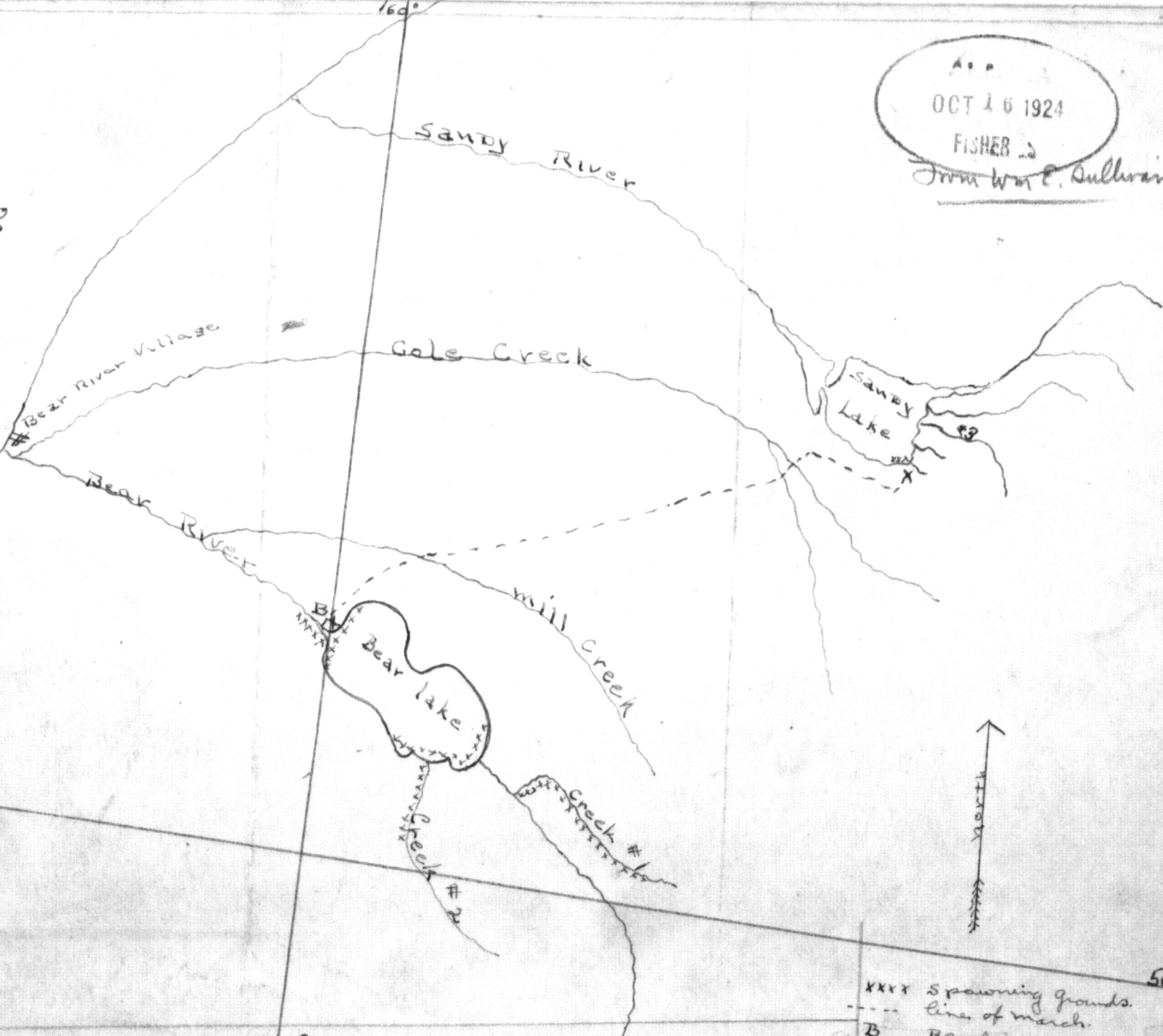
Respectfully submitted.

Wm E. Sullivan  
Foreman.

A.P.  
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John Wm E. Sullivan

Bering  
Sea



# Bear River Village

Gale Creek

Sandy Lake

Bear River

Mill Creek

Bear lake

Creek #1

Port Moller  
Cannery

xxxx spawning grounds.  
--- line of march.  
B Barabara